Mine Taxation in the United States. By LEWIS EMANUEL YOUNG, E.M., Ph.D. (University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences, Vol. V, No. 4, December, 1916.)

This valuable treatise is the first comprehensive publication which presents the data furnished by the experience of states that have for many years taxed mining properties. It also contains a compilation of the tax laws and decisions affecting mines in the United States. A perusal of the work impresses the reader with the great amount of discriminating study by the author, and also the divergent and generally unscientific methods of taxing mining property in most states.

Aside from the introductory chapter, which contains an exposition of the federal and state policy regarding mineral resources and a review of United States mining history, there are eight others treating of the history of national and state taxation of mines, constitutional and statutory provisions, present methods of taxation in the different states, comparison of systems of mine taxation, problems of administration, tax burden, and suggested methods of reform.

In the chapter on problems of administration, after pointing out the peculiarities of mine taxation in a general way, the author expounds fully the methods by which mining properties have been appraised in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. These appraisals by central state authority are shown to be a distinct advance in the method of placing a proper valuation on mines. That they are thoroughly practical is made clear by a paragraph giving their annual cost which varies from 2 to 5 mills per $1000 of taxes collected from these properties.

One of the most interesting chapters is that showing the tax burden on mineral industry. The surplus after deducting cost of operation from the output and the ratio of this surplus to the taxes paid in each state are shown for the different kinds of mining. The relative burden of taxation in the different states is thus brought out.

The author properly warns against using the data of the tables to compare with similar data for other industries, because, as he points out, no allowance has been made in the figures for depreciation to which all mines are subject.

In the summary of suggested reforms, the following principles are advocated: (1) If constitutional uniformity in taxation is required, a centralized appraisal of mines should be provided. (2) If classification is permitted, mines should be assessed at full value and the tax equated with the tax burden on other property. (3) When the constitution

does not limit the taxing power, taxes on mines should be equated with those on other property. Mines should be appraised by an approved system like that used in Michigan. (4) When income and progressive taxes are used, the tax should be graduated according to the percentage of earnings, on cost of the mine or paid in capital. (5) Mines should be taxed for both state and local purposes and local tax rates should be limited by law.

The work contains an exhaustive bibliography and is well indexed.

Attention should be called to a typographical error on page 169. In the table showing depreciation of oil lands, \$0.555 should be \$0.055.

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Separation of State and Local Revenues in the United States. By MABEL NEWCOMER. (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1917. Pp. 195.)

The subject of this monograph is the once popular but now somewhat discredited separation of the sources of state and local revenues. For the purposes of this particular investigation, "separation" means the use of different sources of income for the state and local units. It has usually been accomplished, in the United States, by the relinquishment of a large part, or the whole, of the state taxes on general property in favor of local taxes thereon, while the state has developed a series of special taxes, principally on the different classes of corporations, on inheritances, and, in the southern states, on occupations and privileges. While not a necessary feature of such a program, it has usually been true that such a division of the sources of revenue has been accompanied by local or decentralized administration of the local taxes. In fact, one principal motive for the adoption of separation of sources was the elimination of the incentive to competitive undervaluation which was presented by the heavy direct state taxes.

The work under review describes in detail the measures by means of which separation of sources was accomplished in certain states. This survey is confined to those states in which the movement has gone farthest, and is by no means offered as a complete discussion. The most notable omission is the case of Ohio, in which virtually complete separation has been in force for at least fifteen years. The principal